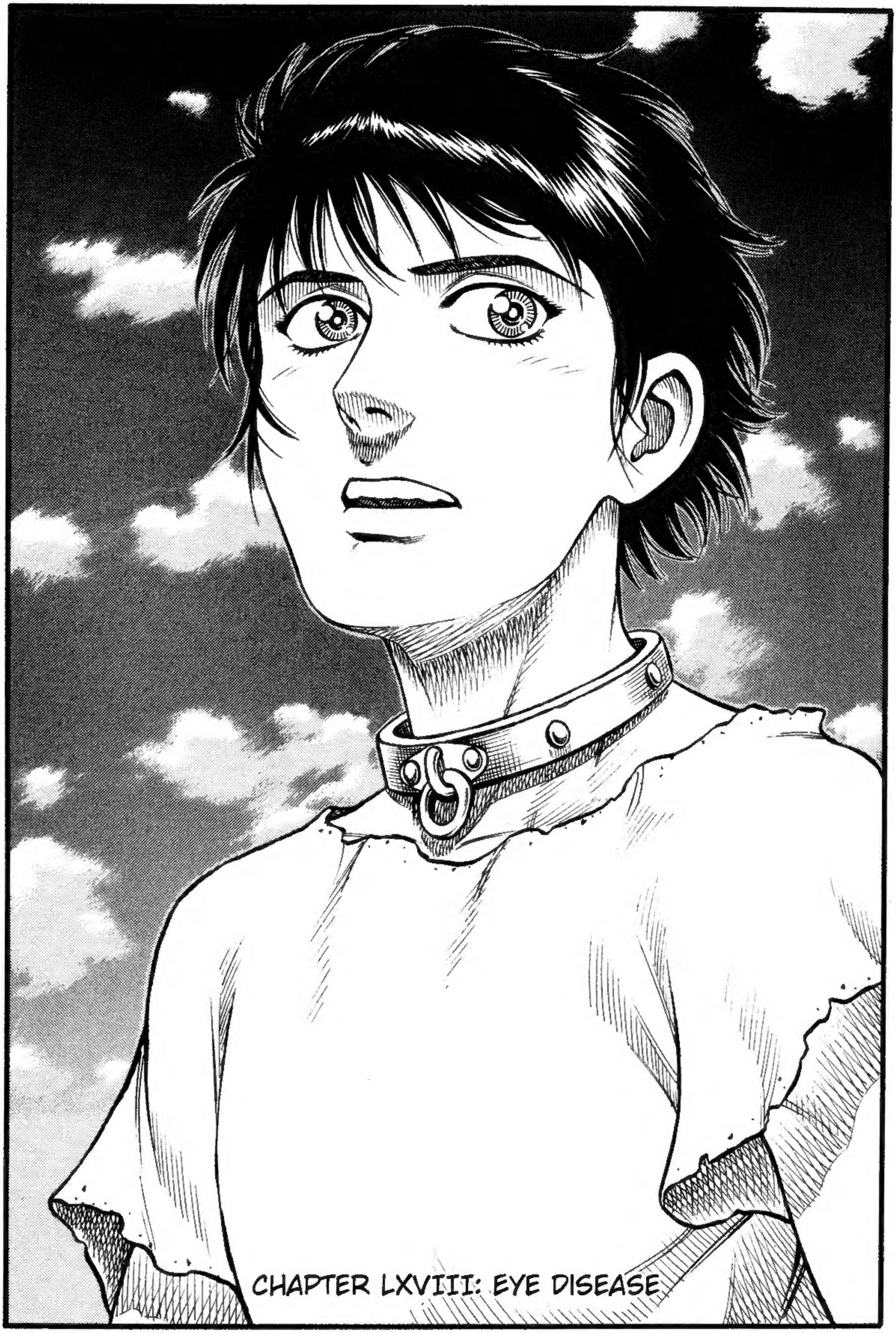

CHAPTER LXVIII: EYE DISEASE

IF A BOXER TAKES TOO MANY HITS TO THE HEAD, THEY'LL ONE DAY END UP WITH DAMAGE TO THEIR EYES...

OH YEAH, I'D HEARD ABOUT THIS FROM MASTER.

HOW LONG YOU GONNA STAND THERE?

GIMME THAT!

HH HH HH

WHAT'RE YOU STARING AT?!

IF YOU'RE DONE, THEN GET OUTTA MY SIGHT!

KUH...

...

RETINAL DETACHMENT.

ANYONE WITH AN INTEREST IN BOXING WILL HAVE HEARD THE PHRASE AT LEAST ONCE.

IT'S A MEDICAL CONDITION, WHICH GIVES RISE TO THE APPEARANCE OF THE STRANGE "LEAPING BUGS".

RETINA
CILLIARY BODY
CORNEA
SCLERA
THE RETINA IS A MEMBRANE LAYER FOUND ON THE INNER WALL OF THE EYE. IT IS WHERE IMAGES TRANSMITTED THROUGH THE CORNEA AND CRYSTALLINE LENS ARE PROJECTED.
ANTERIOR CHAMBER
OPTIC NERVE
CRYSTALLINE LENS
CONJUNCTIVA
ONE SIMPLE WAY OF PUTTING THINGS IS THAT THE CORNEA ACTS LIKE A FILTER, THE CRYSTALLINE LENS A LENS, AND THE RETINA A SCREEN.
THE RETINA CAN BE DAMAGED VIA THE SHOCK FROM BEING PUNCHED, IN WHAT IS KNOWN AS "RETINAL PERFORATION".
IN THE CASE OF THE LATTER, THE SPLIT AND TORN SCREEN IS UNABLE TO PROPERLY DISPLAY IMAGES.
THE ACCUMULATION OF FURTHER DAMAGE CAN LEAD TO RETINAL FISSURES, AS WELL AS RETINAL DETACHMENT...

AS MENTIONED BEFORE, ONE'S SENSE OF SIGHT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE.

FOR A FIGHTER, IT CAN MEAN A DECISIVE, FATAL WOUND.

INDEED, THERE ARE MANY FAMOUS NAMES IN THE BOXING WORLD WHO HAVE BEEN FORCED TO SUFFER EARLY RETIREMENT FROM THESE EYE DISEASES.

SUCH INJURIES CAN BE GRAVE. EVEN WITH MODERN DOCTORS, ONE CAN RUN THE RISK OF BLINDNESS.

YET THOSE...

ARE NOT THE ONLY DANGERS FACED BY SLAVE BOXERS!

A HARSH REALITY OF MATCHES IN WHICH...

!

MUTUAL BLOWS ARE EXCHANGED, IS THE RISK OF BRAIN DAMAGE.

SHAKE.

SHAKE.

SHAKE.

SHAKE.

カラァン

IT COULDN'T BE THAT...

MONSON...

YOUR BODY'S...

SUCH BLOWS CAN HINDER THE CRANIAL NERVES...

DONE FOR...!

LEADING TO THE OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE WHICH MARKS THE END OF A BOXER'S CAREER, DRUNK PUNCH SYNDROME.

WHAT OF IT, BOY...?!

IF SO...

NO MATTER WHAT MIGHT COME, I'D CUT AT IT WITH THIS ALONE!

MY LIFE TILL NOW HAS BEEN A TALE TOLD BY THE FIST, IT'S BEEN A LIFE OF RECOGNITION BY THEM.

SINCE I WAS 12...

LONG BEFORE YOU CAME INTO THIS WORLD...

I'VE BEEN USING THESE TO GET FOOD.

THEY'RE THE ONE BLESSING THE CRUEL GODS GRANTED ME.

YOU! GET THAT, BOY?!

THESE ARE THE ONLY THINGS WHICH HAVE NEVER BETRAYED ME!

AM A SLAVE BOXER AFTER ALL...

I... I DO.

I TOO...

ﾊｯ...

I'LL TELL YOU STRAIGHT...

IS THAT SO...

ﾊﾞｯ

WELL I GUESS THAT'LL SAVE SOME TIME.

SQUEAL TO THE BOSS, AND I'LL KILL YOU.

...

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TRY IT OUT, FOR A DECADE OR TWO.

YOU'LL FIND OUT YOURSELF HOW YOU AIN'T WORTH SHIT.

A BROKEN SLAVE BOXER CAN'T DO NOTHING BUT DIE WITH HIS FISTS.

I'VE ALREADY DECIDED TO SPEND MY LIFE DOING THIS.

I'LL BE HAPPY IF, DURING A FIGHT, I CAN DIE A GLORIOUS DEATH.

BESIDES, WHAT ELSE CAN I EVEN DO NOW?

THE CLEAR DANGER THEN...

...

WAS THE COMPLETE RUIN OF THE BODY WHICH COULD CALL UPON THEM IN THE FUTURE.

PULL YOUR CHIN IN PROPERLY PEDRO!

GET BACK, QUICKLY!

MAKE SURE YOU ALWAYS KEEP ONE OF YOUR FISTS FOR DEFENCE!

TO STRIKE WITHOUT BEING STRUCK...

HIS MASTER'S TEACHINGS PRODDED HIS HEART ONCE MORE.

BEEN ENJOYING THE SCENERY?

YOU ARRIVED AT THE PERFECT TIME, WEATHER'S LOVELY TOO.

DID I KEEP YOU WAITING, DRISCO?

HE'S A SLAVER WHO DEALS WITH UNWANTED GOODS.

DOES THE BOSS KNOW HIM?

FUFUN... WELL SORTA.

FINALLY GONNA GO FOR A PROFESSION CHANGE, EH?

HEHEHE...

I SOMETIMES FEEL I SHOULD TAKE UP CHARITY.

AAAAH, NOT AT ALL, NOT AT ALL.

I'VE ONLY BEEN LOOKING AT THE DAMN GROUND BENEATH MY FEET!

WHY'D YOU THINK WE CAME TO THIS FARM, AND SET THAT THING BACK THERE UP?

YOU SURE ARE SLOW THOUGH!

IT'S BEGINNING. WE'RE GONNA BE PRUNED.

THAT'S HOW THEY'LL BE DOING THE OUTDOOR FIGHTS.

...!

I WOULDN'T GET YOUR HOPES UP EITHER, YOU NEW GUYS ALWAYS GET USED AS FOODER.

THE OLD, WORN OUT VETERANS TOO.

DON'T GET FLUSTERED YOU FOOLS!

THIS IS TERRIBLE...

YOU SHOULD'VE SAID SOMETHING SO I COULD READY MYSELF...

THE CONDITIONS ARE EQUAL FOR ALL!

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

FIGHT AS I TAUGHT YOU, AND YOU'LL DEFINITELY WIN!

BELIEVE IN THE SWEAT YOU SHED!

WASN'T THIS WHY YOU'VE BEEN PRACTIC-ING?

YOU'VE SORTED OUT YOUR PREPA-RATIONS.

JUST WHAT'VE YOU BEEN FOLLOWING ME AROUND FOR ALL THESE MONTHS FOR?!

RIIIGHT, LET'S GET THIS STARTED.

...

COME OUT TO THE FRONT. YES YOU, GETTY!